

Message Text

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10

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-09 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14

USIA-12 IO-12 OMB-01 EA-11 RSR-01 /118 W

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R 191045 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 649

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABAI EWIU

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USINT CAIRO

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOGADISCIO 0385

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PBOR MCAP SO ET OAU

SUBJ: ETHIOPIAN- SOMALI RELATIONS -- SOMALI NEWSPAPER ATTACKS

ETHIOPIAN TROOP BUILD- UP

1. MARCH 16 EDITION OF ENGLISH/ ARABIC WEEKLY VANGUARD CONTAINS PROMINENT ARTICLE IN ARABIC ACCUSING ETHIOPIA OF PROVODING CONFLICT WITH SOMALIA BY BUILDING UP ITS TROOPS ALONG SOMALIA'S BORDERS.

2. ARTICLE STATES THAT SOMALIS WILL NOT BE INTIMIDATED OR DIVIDED BY ETHIOPIAN " THREATS." SOMALIA PURSUING PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT THROUGH NEGOTIATION BUT THIS SHOULD NOT BE MISTAKEN FOR WEAKNESS. SOMALIA ABLE TO DEFEND ITSELF AND COULD EVEN GET " WHAT BELONGS TO US BY FORCE IF NECESSARY." BUT SOMALIA " BELIEVES IN PEACE" AND HAS FAITH IN OAU. HOWEVER, ETHIOPIA DOES NOT WANT PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT AND IS BEING " ENCOURAGED" TO PURSUE POLICY OF ENMITY BY " WORLD IMPERIALISM AND ZIONISM". ETHIOPIA BUILDING UP ITS ARMIES AND OPPRESSING SOMALIS IN ETHIOPIA " ON ORDERS OF HER IMPERIALIST MASTERS." SOMALIS IN ETHIOPIA LOOK TO SOMALIA AND " WE WILL NOT BE DETERRED BY THREATS OR FORCE."

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EM VANGUARD OSTENSIBLY " PRIVATE" BUT IS PARTLY FINANCED (COVERTLY) BY GSDR AND IS, OF COURSE, SUBJECT TO GOVERNMENT APPROVAL OF ITS CONTENTS. VANGUARD ALSO SUBSIDISED BY NORTH KOREAN EMBASSY.

4. WHILE VANGUARD HAS IN PAST CARRIED ARTICLES CRITICAL OF ETHIOPIA, PRESENT ARTICLE IS HARSHTEST YET. FOR FIRST TIME ETHIOPIA IEMOPENLY ACCUSED OF BEING WILLING TOOL OF " IMPERIALISTS AND ZIONISTS."

5. ETHIOPIAN CHARGE PREDICTS IEG, WHICH HAS DELIBERATELY AVOIDED PUBLIC RESPONSE TO EARLIER ARTICLES, " MUST" NOW REACT OPENLY. ETHIOPIANS HAVE ON EARLIER OCCASIONS RAISED ISSUE OF VANGUARD CRITICISMS OF ETHIOPIA WITH FONOFF AND WITH SAID HIMSELF, BUT HAD BEEN TOLD THAT VANGUARD " PRIVATE" AND NOT SUBJECT TO GSDR CONTROL. THIS EXPLANATION CLEARLY UNACCEPTABLE TO ADDIS.

6. CHARGE EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER DANGER OF INCIDENT IN BORDER AREA LEADING TO OUTBREAK OF WIDER HOSTILITIES. ALTHOUGH HE PROFESSED NOT KNOW DETAILS OF LATEST ETHIOPIAN TROOP MOVEMENTS, HE STATED THEY WERE WELL BACK OF BORDER. HOWEVER THERE WAS DANGER THAT SOMALIS COULD MISINTERPRET THEIR MEANING. HE ADMITTED THAT SOMALIS BOTHERED BY PROLONGED ABSENCE ETHIOPIAN AMBASSADOR. CHARGE CLAIMED THAT WITHIN LAST MONTH THERE HAD BEEN " MAJOR" SOMALI TROOP MOVEMENTS IN DOLO AND BELET UEN AREAS. TO EMBASSY'S KNOWLEDGE THERE HAS BEEN SHIFTING OF UNITS IN BORDER AREAS BUT WE CANNOT CONFIRM THAT THERE HAVE BEEN LARGE SCALE REINFORCEMENTS.)
LOORAM

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